

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

Approved Minutes Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Call to order: Called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman Collins. Mr. Donaldson and Ms. Tudor were in attendance, as were the Town Administrator and Town Finance Director. There were 8 members of the public in attendance (via Zoom).

Public comment: There was no public comment provided prior to the start of Select Board business.

Items to be added to agenda: Chairman Collins approved of Mr. Donaldson's request to add an item under "New Business" regarding the Select Board's meeting schedule in August.

Scheduled appointments: There were none.

Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Ms. Tudor to approve the minutes of the July 11th Select Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Review:

- Finance Director Mary McDonald informed the Board that the Warrant was ready for approval.
- The Board was provided with a copy of the updated list of the Building Permits issued in Town.
- The Board was provided with a copy of the updated list of contact information for Town Officials.
- The Board was updated on June Hauling Numbers from the Transfer Station. It was noted that the Town is currently down 23.7 tons for the year on bulky waste, and 7.84 tons on compacted waste.

Assessing items:

- The Board was informed that Pat Dow was in Town for the week of July 24th to begin assessment work ahead of the annual Tax Commitment in October.
- On a motion from Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, the Board approved and signed the Certified Ratio Declaration of 74% this year. The Town Administrator noted that the previous decade, the Town has fallen within the 10% fluctuation allowed to certify at 100% and added that this drop is due to a rising variance between market value and assessed values.

Correspondence:

- There was a request for Liability Insurance for the Sea Kayaking Event hosted by Recreation Committee. From what was heard, this proved to be a great event. There was Board discussion on timelines for these kinds of requests and the Select Board noted a desire for timeliness when possible.
- Thank you (and request) Letter from SEARCH-Greater Bath a program of Catholic Charities – for the \$400 donation that the Town made. Their program works to keep seniors independent and in their homes.
- Letter from CMP re: Delivery Price Changes effective July 1. On July 1, the price jumped 7.1 cents per kWh from – from 22.6 cents in 2022 to 29.7 cents. Effective July 15, that will drop 1 cent a kWh. It was noted that this is still a net increase of 6.1 cents over last year.

- Flyer from Georgetown Historical Society for *Trash Talk* on August 15. The event promised to be an informative discussion around the past, present and future of “the things we throw away.”
- Email from Noah Gleason-Hart re: Josephine Newman Audubon Sanctuary. It was noted that Noah is a Land Steward with Maine Audubon and wrote regarding a bridge that is in need of maintenance on the Josephine Newman Sanctuary. Maine Audubon had previously granted an easement to the town for the creation of this bridge with the town (Conservation Commission) responsible for maintenance. The Town Administrator noted that Noah, Kathy Gravino, and he would be will be visiting the site on July 31st.
- Update on Senior Tax Stabilization Program. It was noted that the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, commonly known as LD 290, was repealed with an effective date of Oct 11, 2023 which meant there will only be one year of the “freeze” in effect. There will be no reapplications. It was further noted that the Property Tax Fairness Credit has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 and that the State Property Tax Deferral Program – a lifeline loan program for seniors – has seen the income limit double. Previous discussions had included an expanded Homestead Exemption but these were not included in the final package.
- Sagadahoc County Assessors’ Return. The Town Administrator informed that Board that the Town was in receipt of the Assessors’ Return – with an assessment due of \$1,106,199 to the County for the 2023-2024 year. This was placed on file with a plan to follow up in October at the time of commitment.

Other Correspondence: There was none.

Continuing Items:

Receipts for pumping: There were none.

Maine Waste Discharge License *renewal* / transfer applications :

- Little Reid Trust (06U-011), 62 Loop Road
- Joseph and Hannah Conley (01U-068), 4 Keen Way (Possible Transfer from Jeanette)

Maine Waste Discharge License *approvals* : There were none.

PBR / NRPA : There were none.

Town Administrator Update: The Town Administrator gave a brief update to the Select Board. He noted that he is working on coming up with a schedule to attend various town committee meetings this summer as well as attending important community events and sites – including the Broadband Reception, the Town Wharf, and a very informative Sagadahoc County Managers’ Meeting. Mr. Washburn noted that the FEMA Grant for the replacement of the culvert on Robinhood Road was submitted and awaiting a final determination. Lastly, Mr. Washburn noted a few upcoming events and projects – including a visit to the Newman Sanctuary, a meeting with Legal Counsel, his attendance at the upcoming MTCMA Conference, and a desire to make the website more user friendly.

Finance Director Update: The Finance Director, as Fire Dept. Liaison, advised that Ambulance One is out of service, due to issues not previously fixed. The Fire Chief and Chris Wilcoxson are working on a solution with Darlings.

Committee Updates:

Minutes: The minutes of the June 6th Recreation Committee Meeting were duly acknowledged.

Membership: The Town Administrator had a discussion with a community member interested in the Harbor Committee membership.

Liaison Updates: Mr. Collins reported that there was nothing new to present. Ms. Tudor noted that there will be a Conservation Commission Potluck on August 19th. Mr. Donaldson, as TOPMB Liaison, noted that there is currently landscaping and a garden on a certain piece of town owned land. He has had discussions with Legal Counsel on appropriate next steps.

Old Business:

- S/V Whisper update – The Board’s attention was directed to an email from the Harbormaster.
- Code Enforcement Officer Update – The Board’s attention was directed to an email from the Code Enforcement Officer.
- Ordinances back from legal for review – There was nothing new to report.
- FEMA Grant Update – It was noted by the Town Administrator that the application was submitted to FEMA.

New Business:

- Approval of Road Closure, Five Islands, for Community Day. Request from Community Center. It was moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and unanimously voted (3-0) to approve the request from the Community Center.
- Maine Municipal Association Annual Election of Officers. It was moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and unanimously voted (3-0) to approve the slate as presented by the Maine Municipal Association.
- Incident at Town Wharf on Sunday, July 23, and discussion on appropriate response. It was moved by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, and unanimously voted (3-0) to pursue a “No Trespass Order” with the Sagadahoc County Sheriff’s Department.
- There was a discussion around the recording and subsequent posting of Town Select Board Meetings held on Zoom. The Board directed the Town Administrator to investigate the particulars of what would be needed to accomplish this. It was noted that the Planning Board also utilizes Zoom to record their meetings and that the Town should look into proper storage for this purpose.
- There was a discussion on sharing of information and expectations re: Select Board and Town Administrator. It was moved by Mr. Donaldson and seconded by Ms. Tudor to give the Town Administrator the authority to make routine and standard decisions that come before the Town with the proviso of keeping the Board informed of these decisions. This was unanimously approved, 3-0. The discussion further noted that unique and not routine items should still be run through the Select Board.
- Addition Added: August Meeting Schedule of the Select Board. At Mr. Donaldson’s request, Chairman Collins approved the addition of the agenda item. It was moved by Ms. Tudor and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, to change the August Select Board Meetings to August 15th and 29th. The vote was unanimous, 3-0.

Items For Signature:

- The Board signed “Thank You Cards” for donations towards Flying Point Road Repairs after the arrival of the Stellar Sea Eagle.

Public comment: Terry Taylor noted that the Spirit of America Awards were presented and very much appreciated. Aria Eee spoke in favor of the recording, and posting, of Zoom meetings. Alison Freeman requested the total dollar amount for the Flying Point Repairs.

Executive Session: No Executive Session was needed.

Adjournment: On a motion by Ms. Tudor, seconded by Mr. Donaldson, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:58pm.
